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CARNEGIE CORPORATION OF NEW YORK

MEMORANDUM

LIBRARIES IN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA RHODESIA AND KENYA COLONY

BY
S. A. PITT

NEW YORK
1929

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Based upon a report made by Mr. Pitt to the Carnegie Corporation

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE

This memorandum dealing with the libraries of the Union of South Africa, Rhodesia and Kenya Colony is divided into three parts: the first gives a general account of existing conditions in the Union, the second contains proposals towards improved library service there, and the third is concerned with library provision in Rhodesia and Kenya. Each of these parts may be read through consecutively, but the sections have been arranged to make reference to the same subjects in the three parts easy.

The program prepared for the conference at Bloemfontein, held at the close of our survey in the Union, was devised to deal with most of the problems confronting those interested in the library movement, and the proceedings of the conference have already been published. The findings of the conference, which were adopted with unanimity, represent the views of almost every form of library interest. They may therefore be read in conjunction with this memorandum and regarded as in substantial agreement with many of the views here expressed. This, of course, does not apply where recommendations of grants are made beyond those stated in the proceedings themselves.

Throughout the tour valuable assistance and much hospitality were received, and for these cordial thanks are due. It would be impossible to name individually all who thus added to the comfort, pleasure, and, possibly, the success of our mission, but for such attention as we experienced particular thanks are due to the following:

The Union Government of South Africa.
The Provincial Government of Rhodesia.
The Provincial Government of Kenya.
Public, university, and specialist library committees.
Librarians.
Municipalities and their officers.
Principals of colleges and training institutions.
The chairman of the library conference at Bloemfontein (Professor R. B. Young, Johannesburg).
The chairmen and members of committees of the conference, and all who contributed so largely to its success.

Special thanks are also due to Dr. C. T. Loram, Mr. Charles Christie (Pretoria), Mr. M. M. Stirling (Honorary Secretary to the conference), and to Messrs. A. C. G. Lloyd and Paul Ribbink (Cape Town) and D. Niven (Bulawayo). These gentlemen worked unceasingly for the success of our mission in the Union and in Rhodesia respectively. The members of the Library Committee of Kenya and their secretary, Mr. Genower, also devoted much time and energy to the purpose of our visit to that Colony.

PART I

A General Account of Existing Conditions

As now constituted, the public libraries of South Africa cannot truly be described as either public or free in the same sense as those terms apply in the United States, Canada and the British Isles. They are the product of a country emerging from the pioneer stages of development, and resemble the forerunners of municipal public libraries in the more fully developed English-speaking countries named. But several factors peculiar to South Africa have operated against the adoption of the principle of free libraries for the people.

Prominent among these factors are: (1) The sparsity of white population; (2) the relatively large numbers of natives and non-Europeans; (3) the lack, until 1910, of central government for the territories concerned; and (4) the limited means of transport and communication.

In an area of 472,347 square miles the average density of white population is less than 4 persons per mile, and though Boers and British together form the great majority of Europeans, the use of Afrikaans and English, recognized equally as official languages, tends to hamper unity of thought and action in a common movement. The backward condition of the non-European section of the population has demanded constant attention; the system of central government now established works under the disadvantage of wide separation of the two capitals—legislative and administrative; and the physical features of the country present unusual difficulties in promoting welfare movements.

Despite these drawbacks there have been established 211 public libraries. Almost without exception they have been founded and maintained by subscriptions, aided in some cases by small government and/or municipal grants. The state libraries at Cape Town and Pretoria receive respectively grants of £3,500 and £2,000 annually. With the Fichardt Public Library, Bloemfontein, and the library of the Natal Society, Pietermaritzburg, they are entitled under Section 150 of Act No. 9, 1916, to receive all works copyrighted in the Union. Beyond such aid and minor sources of revenue, they depend entirely on subscriptions of members for their support.

In the Cape Province the small grants in aid continued by the provincial government to public libraries are given on condition that "at least three quarters of the Provincial grant shall be spent upon books, and . . . one quarter of this on works of an educative and non-ephemeral nature." Though small grants were formerly made to some libraries in other provinces, the practice has been discontinued in recent years. Municipalities in all the provinces, however, have generally added to the meagre library incomes on condition that the public be permitted free reading facilities within the library buildings. This does not include the loan of books for home reading.

To these practices Harrismith and Johannesburg have become outstanding

exceptions. The public library at Johannesburg was formerly carried on under conditions similar to those in other towns, but in July, 1924, by arrangement with the Town Council, it was transferred to the corporation, who undertook to maintain it as a free rate-supported institution. The only existing restriction in operation is the deposit required from those who borrow books from the circulating department for home reading. The libraries of Johannesburg and Harrismith are therefore the nearest approach to the municipal public library of America and the United Kingdom. In consequence of the comparatively liberal grants made by the municipalities, a few libraries, such as those at Germiston and Benoni, have reduced membership subscriptions or other charges to a merely nominal figure for the use of fiction in their circulating departments.

Elsewhere the use of the libraries is restricted as described, and only those Europeans whose financial means enable them to subscribe annual sums, usually ranging from one guinea upwards, enjoy all the service afforded by the libraries.

While there are a few well-planned and commodious library buildings in which excellent work is done, the great majority of the libraries are indifferently housed in buildings erected for other purposes. The shelves are often congested and many of the books are no longer in a condition which makes them attractive to readers. The hours during which books are available for borrowing are fixed to suit the convenience of subscribers, which necessarily restricts their use to the few who enjoy more leisure time than others. And, as might be expected with their limited financial resources, the actual work of the libraries is often in the hands of well-meaning, untrained and part-time workers. Their spare time from other occupation is devoted mainly to the issue and return of books.

The whole situation recalls the conditions obtaining in the years just preceding the public library movement in America and Great Britain. Development in South Africa, however, has been adversely affected by the already mentioned factors peculiar to the country. Poor as the accommodation too frequently is, much more might be made of it under inspired effort and trained direction.

The book stock shown in official returns would appear to be ample for the requirements of European readers in the Union, but in variety and quality it is markedly inadequate. Expenditure on books has generally proceeded without that fullness of information which is essential to wise selection, and each community having made its choice of books without reference to purchases by neighboring libraries, a large proportion of the total funds available has been spent uneconomically. The inevitable result is to be seen in the multiplication of copies of expensive books, often little used, in adjacent libraries, with a consequent paucity of provision in other directions.

Lacking a national library spirit and co-ordinated effort towards better conditions, there has been no organized collection and dissemination of information by which librarians, library committees, government and local authorities might obtain guidance and assistance in promoting library betterment. In these circum-

stances it is all the more creditable to the librarians who have succeeded in becoming proficient in their work, and to their committees who have been wise enough to encourage them in bringing their library services to the degree of efficiency which they have reached.

In very few libraries is there separate accommodation for children or young people; more, however, provide small collections of books for them on shelves apart from those containing books for adult readers. The children's library, with suitable equipment and trained librarian, one of the most important features of the modern public library, is an urgent need even in the best equipped libraries of South Africa.

This deficiency has, to some extent, been met by school libraries, notably those served from the Carnegie Public Library, Germiston, which, by arrangement with and aid from the Transvaal Education Department, supplies collections of books to some 40 schools within the provincial area. This service is due mainly to the enthusiasm and organizing capacity of the Germiston librarian, who has successfully devoted much time and energy to the scheme, towards the cost of which an allowance of 8d. per caput of the children served is made by the Provincial Education Department. The results obtained have been so satisfactory that extension of the scheme may be anticipated.

University and College Libraries

There are four universities within the Union, namely, those at Cape Town, Stellenbosch, Johannesburg, and the University of South Africa, which comprises the following colleges:

Transvaal University College, Pretoria; Rhodes University College, Grahamstown; Natal University College, Pietermaritzburg; Grey University College, Bloemfontein; Huguenot University College, Wellington; University College, Potchefstroom.

We viewed the libraries at the first three universities and those at three of the colleges named. After doing so we appreciated the significance of paragraph 55, page 17, of the "Report of the University Commission" (U. G. 33 '28), in which it is stated:

> "The Commission feels that with one outstanding, and, perhaps, two commendable exceptions the library facilities at the existing institutions are inadequate. At some they can hardly be said to exist, and one of the largest describes itself as being 'a University without a library.' This description is not quite accurate, but the statement discloses a grave defect in our University system. Much too generally has it been the policy of institutions to erect imposing buildings but to neglect providing less obtrusive but far more important requisites for University work. . . ."

The library position in each case is generally indicated by the following particulars extracted from the report:

	Number of Volumes in Library	Number of Periodical Subscriptions	(Back Numbers) Total Number of Periodicals in Library	Library Seating Accommodation	Amount Spent per Annum	
					On Books	On Staff
University of Cape Town	22,979	420	8,200	75	£2360 18 10	£592 — —
University of Stellenbosch	32,420	296	6,000	..	£1800 16 2	£731 — —
University of the Witwatersrand	..	..	..	..	£1554 14 —	..
Grey University College	8,800	70	..	..	..	£91 13 4
Huguenot University College	5,281	30	..	30	£130 5 2	..
Natal University College	10,179	27	..	..	..	£243 — —
Potchefstroom University College	3,042	21	..	..	£219 0 5	£48 — —
Rhodes University College	15,782	55	..	50	£207 19 4	£150 — —
Transvaal University College	21,181	166	16,502	50	..	£437 10 —

University of Cape Town

Taking the libraries in the order shown in the table, that of Cape Town has the second largest stock and the highest annual expenditure. But in a statement signed by the chairman of the University Library Committee and the librarian, the following information is given respecting the library:

> "To-day it possesses 45,000 volumes and several thousand blue-books, pamphlets, and other books . . . and, in addition, it houses the books of the Royal Society of South Africa, some 12,000 in all, many of them of great value.
>
> "In round figures, 2,000 persons have free access to the Library service . . .
>
> "By special arrangement, staff and students have enjoyed the service of the South African Public Library in Cape Town; but the imminent removal of the University to the new buildings at Groote Schuur five miles away means a diminution in the effective use of these facilities and, in proportion, throws a heavier strain on the resources of the University Library.
>
> "Since . . . 1918, we have spent £2,000 annually on the purchase of books and periodicals and on binding. . . . At present we are spending annually the interest on £17,000 on periodicals and their binding. By doing so we have built up, inter alia, the largest collection of Medical Periodicals in South Africa, and we are able constantly to lend volumes to various Universities, Colleges, Government Departments, and Mining Corporations as far north as Northern Rhodesia. . . .
>
> "At a moderate estimate, a sum of not less than £4,000 is required to fill up gaps in sets of periodicals to which we already subscribe. . . ."

Appendices were supplied to show—(1) Periodicals which are not to be had in South Africa, and (2) Periodicals which are to be had in South Africa but which

are not in the possession of Cape Town University, though much desired there. Continuing, the statement shows that £1,000 is required to supply deficiencies of the Department of English, and also that there are deficiencies in some 40 other departments of the library.

In closing it is stated that "at least £10,000 is required if the University is to discharge its proper functions as the largest University in South Africa, and one which draws its students from Cape Town to the Great Lakes. The University is prepared to contribute towards such a sum, or such other greater sum as the Carnegie Trust [Corporation] may be willing to grant, up to £5,000 on the £1 for £1 basis. . . ."

In my view the library service is quite incapable of supplying the needs of its 1,800 students and the staff, but in the suite of buildings now in course of erection at Groote Schuur the premises for the library—which are to form an imposing and central feature of the scheme—accommodation for 250,000 volumes, with ample space for readers, is to be provided. This will allow for expansion in accordance with the views expressed above, but it is necessary to point out that, while allowance is made for very important additions to the stock of books and periodicals, strengthening of the trained staff is equally urgent. Proper classification and cataloguing of the books are already much in arrear, and the contemplated rapid growth and use of the library will inevitably throw extra burdens on a staff even now admittedly too small.

Stellenbosch University

As in the case of Cape Town, a statement has been received regarding Stellenbosch University Library which shows that the stock of books now numbers 45,000, and the amount officially requested for the purchase of books and periodicals during the current year is £2,600.

Some 1,100 students are in attendance at the University, but there is little accommodation for reading on the premises; and under present conditions it will be difficult for students to carry on their studies in the library owing to the dispersal of the books. Many of these are distributed over class-rooms and though they are entered in the general card catalogue, such entries are according to departments in which the books are lodged.

The Library Committee desires complete reorganization of the library and has sent the librarian to study library methods and organization in the United States before undertaking the work necessary to bring this service into line with the best modern practice. Until the scheme of reorganization has made progress, it is impossible to arrive at satisfactory conclusions respecting the condition of the collections.

The system of book selection leaves much to be desired, and we urged the desirability of giving better status and greater responsibility to a well-qualified and trained librarian. That officer might then be relied upon to provide for the several faculties, in accordance with their needs, as fully as means would allow.

Co-operation with Cape Town University in the inter-loan of books and periodicals has taken place to a limited extent, but much more might be done in this way between the universities. What appears to be equally important is that students of the University and those attending the Elsenberg Experimental School of Agriculture (now amalgamated with the University Faculty of Agriculture) should enjoy the library facilities of both institutions. Under existing arrangements the special collection of 10,000 volumes at that school, of great interest to agriculturists, is for the use of the students at Elsenberg only. Neither students of agriculture at Stellenbosch nor members of the large farming community of the district are entitled to make use of this provision which is administered from Pretoria. Clearly more should be done by the authorities concerned to co-operate in making both collections as widely useful as possible. As an inducement to this end the expenditure of Corporation funds might offer valuable assistance in the promotion of a scheme which could be devised to secure this object.

University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

Though the University of the Witwatersrand was established as recently as 1922 it has already attracted many students. The attendance given in the "Report of the University Commission" is 1,403. Handsome buildings for its various faculties have been or are being erected on a commanding site on the north side of the city of Johannesburg. As yet, however, no provision has been made for a University library, which in the words of the principal "can hardly be said to exist." After viewing the small and hopelessly inadequate collections, scattered throughout lecture rooms, one must concur in this remark. One eminent professor showed us his meagre collection, largely his personal property, and volunteered the observation that all departments were similarly placed, adding that he carries on under very great difficulty. He further observed that work which, with the aid of a good library, would occupy a day costs weeks without it. Obviously the stricture in the "Report of the University Commission" applies here: ". . . . Much too generally has it been the policy of institutions to erect imposing buildings but to neglect providing less obtrusive but far more important requisites for University work . . ." From the principal downwards the staff deplores the absence of a library. Apart from the loss of its important contribution to the attainment of a true university atmosphere, the lack of a library puts a serious strain upon the personal equipment of teachers, and places the students at a grave disadvantage.

At our final meeting in the University—with the Council—it was agreed that the appointment of a fully qualified and well-trained professional librarian should be made; that the acquisition of books must follow as speedily as possible; and that the provision of a suitable building for the library should receive the immediate attention of the Council.

Situated at the heart of the greatest industrial region of South Africa, and housed in adequate premises, it is confidently anticipated that a well-equipped Uni-

versity of the Witwatersrand would quickly take its rightful place among educational institutions in the Union.

University of South Africa

Of the colleges constituting the fourth university, only three of the six were visited. These were Huguenot University College (for women), Wellington; Transvaal University College, Pretoria; and Rhodes University College, Grahamstown.

Huguenot University College: Only some hundred students are in attendance at Huguenot, and economic conditions which have prevailed for a considerable time suggest the improbability of any considerable increase in this number. It must also be remembered that with the rapidly growing provision and greater attractions of the University of Cape Town, less than forty miles distant, the demands upon Huguenot College are unlikely to increase.

A small library has been provided for the use of students and staff at the College, and if this were brought up to date by an expenditure of about £500, it is felt that the ordinary requirements of the library would be met. Beyond such requirements it is suggested that by close co-operation between libraries of the six sister colleges, and by a system of exchange or inter-loan of books with Cape Town University, other needs would be fully satisfied.

Transvaal University College: The position with regard to Transvaal University College is substantially different. The College is attended by 800 to 900 students and membership is increasing. Situated at the centre of state administrative activity, special demands are made upon the staff and the resources of the College; and, as the largest of the six colleges constituting the University of South Africa, Transvaal University College may be regarded as the most important of the group.

The library, comprising 25,000 volumes, is housed in a building where all available accommodation is taxed to the limit. It therefore cannot continue to increase unless more room is provided. Current periodicals as received displace others which are stored unbound, and the growing congestion seriously hampers the usefulness of the library.

Rhodes University College: This college, which is attended by 400 to 450 students, possesses a library comprising some 16,000 volumes housed in a single-story building formerly used as barracks. The accommodation for books can best be described as storage only, and there is neither a general reading room nor study rooms for students. Pursuit of knowledge here is certainly carried on under extreme difficulty, for the reader using one of the few tables placed between crowded bookcases is subject to much interruption by others searching the shelves. More suitable quarters is a prerequisite to satisfactory work.

At our meeting with the staff it was said that in the Department of Chemistry alone £3,000 would not provide all the periodicals desired, and that £1,000 is

needed to supply those essential. Other departments were said to be equally lacking.

After closer examination of the library, its most notable gaps were found in the Departments of Chemistry, Language and Literature (with emphasis on Dutch and French), and History, while there are important omissions from the bibliographical section. Stress was laid on the weakness in periodical literature, but this is a want so common to the universities in South Africa that further comment on the matter is made elsewhere.

Potchefstroom University College: A visit to Potchefstroom during our stay at Johannesburg was planned, but owing to infrequent train service and the many calls upon our limited time in that city, the proposed visit was cancelled and, instead, we were met by two representatives of Potchefstroom University College.

The number of students attending the College is now stated to be 250, which shows an increase of 63 over the figures given in the "Report of the University Commission," and it is claimed that there is a tendency to further increase. The library, however, is very small, comprising only some 4,000 volumes. How far the existence of the younger, virile, and rapidly growing University of the Witwatersrand may affect the development of this college it is not possible to say, but the proximity of the more fully equipped institution must have a direct bearing on developments here.

With its existing provision the College Library cannot do more than meet the more obvious needs of students, and a large amount of money would be required to make its collection reasonably representative. Having discussed the situation with the members of the College Council, when we suggested that they should continue to add to their library as far as possible the more urgently required books, we outlined proposals for a national library service and close co-operation between university libraries. They concurred, and on our part it seems to be the best and most economical solution of the problem.

The Grey and the Natal University Colleges at Bloemfontein and Pietermaritzburg respectively were not visited, nor did either send representatives to meet us, but the librarian of one and a member of the Library Committee of the other met us informally.

Both colleges are in towns where library provision is comparatively good. At Bloemfontein the Fichardt Public Library contains 28,281 volumes, housed in a centrally placed and fairly well equipped building. Until quite recently a member of the staff of Grey University College took a prominent part in the management of the library, and was helpful in co-ordinating the efforts of the college library and the public library.

A somewhat similar state of affairs exists at Pietermaritzburg, where members of the staff of the Natal University College are very active members of the Natal Society (Public) Library.

The library of this society is public in much the same sense as other semi-

municipal libraries, and it receives grants from the town Council in recognition of its service to the community. The library is also one of the four enjoying privileges under the Copyright Act of 1916.

The needs of the College Library were not fully discussed, but its position as far as indicated is similar in most respects to that of Grey University College.

Technical Institutes

Only two technical institutes in the Union call for special remark as having been carefully examined. These are at Cape Town and Durban.

The Cape Technical College, erected at a cost of £200,000 on a site provided free by the municipality of Cape Town, was opened in 1923. It is a large and handsome building, maintained by grants from the Government and the town. There are 4,500 students in attendance, but only 400 to 500 are enrolled for day classes, the great majority being evening students.

Library provision consists of one room, 50′ x 35′, in a mid-wing, and here are accommodated some 4,500 volumes—mainly of the manual or text-book order—and a fair selection of periodicals. Both books and periodicals are selected to cover subjects included in the college curriculum, and the volumes are lent only to students attending college classes.

Though the income of the College is about £42,000, only £600 is devoted to the needs of the library, but the salary of a trained librarian and establishment charges are met from other funds.

The Technical College at Durban is also a large and vigorous institution, attended by some 3,000 students. As at Cape Town, the College is maintained by grants from the Government and the municipality.

Though the library comprises 12,000 volumes, many of these have been received as the gift or bequest of private collections and are unsuitable for the special work of the College. In the literature of science and technology the library is very deficient.

Specialist and Other Libraries

Quite the most important of other libraries is the Library of Parliament at Cape Town, established for the use of members of the Legislative Assembly and officials. It comprises some 75,000 volumes, excluding important special bequests and recently acquired collections, such as the valuable library of the late Sidney Mendelssohn.

Though the library is well provided with sets of state documents of South Africa and other countries, general literature is also well represented, works of fiction, religion and applied science only being excepted. From £850 to £1,000 is the annual allowance for the purchase of additions, which number about 3,000 volumes yearly. Special purchases beyond this must be expressly sanctioned.

Even with liberal interpretation of the existing restrictive regulations, the

annual issues do not exceed 10,000; and unless greater facilities are to be given in the future for the use of the collections, it is rather difficult to understand a policy which provides for rapid growth and such comprehensive representation of literature. The library is certainly capable of giving greatly extended service.

Of the few specialist libraries seen, the best are those associated with government departments. That relating to agriculture, housed in Union Buildings, Pretoria, is probably the most widely known and used.

This library is said to comprise 10,000 complete works and many thousands of serial publications, pamphlets, reports, etc. Admission to the library is free, and readers may consult its contents without charge. By depositing £1 and paying an annual subscription of 6/–, borrowers may have books on loan, and these are sent to distant subscribers post free. An official wrapper enclosed with books delivered by post enables borrowers to return them without payment of postage.

Subscribers and others are assisted further on request by the free provision of information relating to agricultural matters.

Libraries for the Blind

Books for blind readers are provided and issued at three centres, namely, Grahamstown, Durban and Johannesburg.

The South African Library for the Blind, Grahamstown, takes as its sphere the whole of the Union. The library was founded in 1919 by Miss Josie Wood of Grahamstown, by whom it was carried on and financed until 1923, after which it came under the direction of an influential committee. It quickly proved its value to blind readers, and its stock of books rapidly increased. Commencing with 100 volumes it now possesses about 2,400. During the last financial year 10,000 books and parcels were handled at the library, and 180 readers made use of the collection, which includes works embossed in Braille and Moon types.

Though financial support for the library is steadily increasing, it is in debt—a bond for £1,200 (reduced last year from £1,400) remains on the building. As stated in the last balance sheet, its revenue is derived mainly from donations and subscriptions (£320); Provincial Council grant (£90); and rents (£268). The development of the library is seriously hampered by lack of funds, while the evidence of its great service to those afflicted by blindness is set forth in many letters of appreciation from residents in various parts of South Africa.

Next in extent and importance to blind readers is the collection of embossed books provided by the Durban Public Library. Some 500 volumes have been purchased out of special funds, and these are issued to local readers.

Johannesburg Public Library also supplies books to the blind, but its provision is made by subscribing to the National Library for the Blind, London, from which institution it receives 20 volumes on loan at a time. This supply is exchanged as required.

There are 1,800 blind Europeans and 5,800 other blind persons within the Union.

Railway Institute Libraries

Railway employees in the district adjacent to Pretoria and in Natal enjoy library facilities not provided in many other parts. By the payment of a small monthly subscription, usually 1/–, they are enabled to borrow books from the circulating libraries of railway institutes. The Pretoria Institute contains 5,000 volumes, mainly fiction, and issues about 60,000 volumes annually. The library at Durban, which serves the whole of the railway workers in Natal, contains about 4,500 volumes, and issues 8,000 volumes a month.

The books are conveyed to distant readers free of charge, and the service is much appreciated, particularly by those who are far removed from towns; but the selection of books leaves little choice to those who desire a range of literature outside the realm of fiction. These libraries are not self-supporting; they are aided financially by income from other activities of the institutes of which they form a part, and membership of the institutes being confined to railway workers, other persons cannot participate in the reading facilities so provided.

Libraries for Non-Europeans

Indians: The only important library for Indians in South Africa is the M. K. Gandhi Library and the Parsee Rustomjee Hall at Durban. It was founded by Bai Jerbai Rustomjee, who left £20,000 for the provision of schools and libraries. His trustees make an allowance each year for the support of the library, and provide also any reasonable sum necessary for extension of its service. Last year the sum of £377 was spent on maintenance and £50 was expended on additional bookcases and other furniture.

The library is centrally placed in the Indian quarter of the town, but, housed in premises behind a busy thoroughfare, the approach leaves much to be desired.

The stock consists of 4,445 volumes and 154 newspapers and periodicals, all of which are for use on the premises only. The following figures indicate representation of different languages in the collections:

	Books	Periodicals
English	2,342	81
Gujerati	1,298	40
Tamil	291	10
Telugu	26	2
Hindi	279	21
Urdu	209	..
	4,445	154

Attendances at the library have steadily grown from 18,509, in 1922, to 58,918 during the year ended August 31, 1928; and the issue of books last year was 8,522, or 5,032 more than during the preceding year.

The most urgent need of educated Indians is a supply of books for home reading.

Natives: The supply of books for natives is so meagre in relation to numbers of potential readers that it can hardly be said to exist. There are small collections at Lovedale and Fort Hare for students, at Pietermaritzburg for teachers, and at Umtata, where the Bunga or Native Council meets. Students at Lovedale and Fort Hare are aided further by Bishop Smyth, who allows them access to his excellent private library.

Though this provision may not be all, it represents probably the best systematic service for natives—of whom there are approximately 5,000,000 within the Union. Of this total, 1,139,804 are in the Province of Natal. Yet we have the following official statement from the Natal Education Department regarding the collection of books referred to as at Pietermaritzburg:

> "The Native Teachers' Library of the Natal Education Department is the only institution of its kind in South Africa. It began some years ago and now contains upwards of 1,400 volumes. An entrance fee of 3/6d. is charged those who wish to be registered as members, and it is open to all teachers, of whatever grade, employed in Native Schools in Natal.
>
> "The books cover a wide range of subjects, but are mainly selected for their interest and use to teachers. Ordinary novels form a very small part of them. They are at present very inadequately housed in one of the offices in the buildings occupied by the Department, and the library is conducted as a side-line of the Native Branch. . . .
>
> "The books are carried through the post free, and each book may be retained for a month. A member may have only one book at a time, but there is no restriction as to the number he may take out during a year. An average of two books per day, the year round, is sent out . . ."

A more recent statement of the estimated native population of Natal gives the number as about 1,500,000, and the children attending school at 60,000. Under present conditions, therefore, those responsible for the teaching and training of young people in attendance at schools have the use of some 1,400 volumes. To them are issued about 600 volumes per annum, and this is apparently the only service of its kind in South Africa.

Lovedale and Fort Hare

See Part II, pages 31–32

PART II

Proposals Towards Improved Library Service

In considering the condition of libraries in South Africa, and what changes might be introduced for their betterment, it is desirable to outline a scheme which should be suitable: practical in ensuring book service to all who desire it; economical in its operation; and sufficiently adjustable to meet the needs of a partially settled and developed country.

Probably it would not be possible at first to do more than provide the framework of such a system as is contemplated, but as so many of the essentials are already in being, it is believed that without great cost a fairly satisfactory commencement can be made. The necessary strengthening and extension of the system, with any local amplification, might follow as experience indicates to be advisable or possible. The strong and general feeling in favor of co-operation expressed by those we met was perhaps the best guarantee of success in any undertaking so wide in its application. There were no exceptions, and the results of the Conference at Bloemfontein provide sufficient evidence of the readiness of library representatives to join hands in making library provision national.

The first step towards the realization of a suitable scheme would be the appointment by the authorities of a National Library Board. Such a board should be charged with the formulation and submission of proposals to give library service throughout the Union. This could best be done in conjunction with a library expert acquainted with the existing condition of libraries.

The actual needs of libraries are much greater than the statistics included in annual official returns suggest. According to these, it might be supposed that the public libraries are adequately supplied with books. This is not the case, as the figures returned often represent "dead" or otherwise unsuitable stock, now non-effective.

The question of conditions of use of libraries should be settled; that is to say, whether their use is to be restricted to Europeans, and whether such use is to be free and with access to all departments of the libraries. As decision on these points has important bearing on finance, the need for settlement is obvious.

It is assumed that in its initial stage, and having regard to the condition of non-Europeans, a system of public free libraries for South Africa would provide for Europeans only. Provision for non-Europeans generally would be a separate consideration.

The arguments in favor of a free public library service in continuation and furtherance of a free system of education are now so conclusive that it is believed to be unnecessary to detail them here.

The main points, however, are that, as a part of that larger and wider education which follows the formal instruction supplied in schools, it provides for that self-development which is the better part of education.

The State has adopted a system of free education which costs approximately £8,000,000 annually, and most of those who have benefited from this provision have ceased to receive formal instruction at seventeen. For the great majority at this impressionable age in South Africa, access to suitable supplies of good books probably also ceases, as few can afford to purchase books, or subscribe for the use of them even where libraries are available. The expenditure on free education, without the further facilities for self-development afforded by free public libraries, is therefore largely wasted. Unquestionably, to spend the extra sum which would be incurred in making such provision would be the truest form of public economy.

What this extra cost would be need not be large, and to ensure both national and local interest, as well as to secure a satisfactory form of financial support, it is suggested that control and expenditure should be the concern of Union and Provincial authorities jointly. Details of cost and its allocation could best be determined in consultation with one versed in South African legislation. The Town Clerk of Pretoria, who is also a member of the State Library Committee, gave this matter close attention during our stay in Bloemfontein. Tentative figures and proposals are included in the Report of the Conference.

On the practical side of a scheme to serve such a territory as that included in the Union there should be

(1) A headquarters or principal library (at Pretoria, Cape Town, or Bloemfontein) linked up with
(2) Several secondary libraries in large provincial centres. These would co-operate with
(3) The smaller libraries of the areas assigned to them.

By convenient grouping each secondary library would become a useful service centre for a great deal of co-operative work between the libraries in its own area. Book-selection, joint purchase of books and periodicals, staff-training, and avoidance of overlapping, with better direction and use of resources, are only a few of the many matters in which co-ordination of effort would give improved results for less expenditure of time or money or both. Thus a small library (A), quite unable from its limited collection to provide much and fairly frequently wanted books, would request loans from the secondary library. The secondary library would (1) lend from its own stock, or, through the medium of its union catalogue of the libraries within its area, (2) borrow the book desired from another library (B) of the local group. Frequent flow and return of books between the secondary library and those in its area would enable each to help all, and the combined resources of the group would meet almost every need of readers served by these institutions. When very exceptional needs could not be met in this way, the secondary library would draw upon the principal library, where special works, often rare or expensive, would be collected to supply such occasional wants.

As it is, without systematic co-operation between libraries, the same expensive

works are often bought by adjacent libraries. Under the system proposed, if one copy of each of such works would serve the borrowers from public libraries of South Africa, it would be placed in the principal library, where it would be made available through libraries in any part of the Union.

The result would be that readers, through their local library service, would draw not only the books for every-day use, but could borrow unusual books available from adjacent libraries, and even rare or expensive works through the intermediate secondary library. The use of such exceptional works, however, would be subject to special conditions.

The choice of a headquarters or principal library under the proposed scheme is one of some difficulty. The State Library, Pretoria, the South African Public Library, Cape Town, and the Fichardt Library, Bloemfontein, were all named as suitable. At the Conference the rival claims to this distinction were discussed in committee when, by a majority of votes, Pretoria was selected. On the submission of this recommendation to the Conference it met with strong opposition, and, in order to make progress with other business, it was agreed to make no recommendation on the subject, the chairman pointing out that ultimately the decision would rest with the Government in consultation with the Carnegie Corporation.

The selection of secondary libraries would not offer great difficulty. The Fichardt Library, Bloemfontein, the Natal Society Library, Pietermaritzburg, the public libraries at Durban, Port Elizabeth, Kimberley, and so forth, would form suitable centres. Some of these already give helpful assistance to smaller libraries in their areas, and it would be a simple matter to provide for systematic co-operation between each of these larger libraries and the small libraries near them. As the system developed and its possibilities of service became evident, even remote villages, stores, schools, and police posts could be linked up with the nearest libraries to provide book service for all. Many experiences during our tour of the Union proved that such provision would be widely used and greatly appreciated.

In seeking to establish a national library system such questions as proprietary rights in existing libraries, local control, and willingness to participate in a service of the kind suggested would not prove barriers to progress. Of the many library committees met, all expressed desire to see a national system established, and though members could not definitely promise to hand over the assets of the subscribers they represented, they were confident that their views would prevail with the great majority of subscribers.

The Conference unanimously favored the scheme.

The estimated cost of providing a national system is given in the Conference recommendations, but the figures stated there are tentative; much depends upon the extent and equipment of any scheme adopted.

University and College Libraries

It will be evident, from what has been said elsewhere, that library provision in the universities and colleges of South Africa is far from satisfactory.

As regards buildings, those existing or in prospect at Cape Town, Stellenbosch, Johannesburg and Wellington are, or promise to be, sufficient for their requirements; but inadequate accommodation at Pretoria and Grahamstown obviously hampers the work of these colleges. Buildings, however, not being one of the chief objects of our investigation, particular attention was not given to them.

In the matter of book supply, all are deficient in varying degrees. While the University of the Witwatersrand, practically without provision, is easily the most outstanding case of need, the accounts in Part I of this memorandum indicate the more or less serious condition of other libraries. It must be pointed out, however, that by a well-devised scheme of co-operation a great deal might be achieved without addition to existing supplies. In the aggregate, the libraries possess many special collections, a wide range of serial and periodical sets, and rare or valuable works which would suffice for most needs if a system of inter-loan were adopted.

Something has already been attempted in this direction. The universities of Cape Town and Stellenbosch have exchanged information respecting serials and periodical literature, and the South African Public Library has produced, in volume form, "A List of the Serial Publications Available for Consultation in the Libraries and Scientific Institutions of the Union of South Africa," which is a valuable preliminary to the inter-loan of books. This is a promising beginning, but much more of a similar nature might be done to make known to those interested the resources collectively available. Until this has been done, students, teachers and research workers, believing that the libraries in the Union do not possess what they need, will continue to refer to libraries in Europe or America for what might be obtained at home, and lose much time in doing so. Further, much money may be needlessly spent in purchasing works which have already been provided in sufficient number to meet the needs of South Africa.

The third important requirement is that of expert staff. All are inadequately provided in this respect. Here again the University of the Witwatersrand is the worst example, as neither librarian nor assistant experienced in modern library practice has been appointed.

Though at Cape Town there is a university librarian, he has little responsibility for the selection and purchase of books, and is aided by only two untrained assistants. With such a staff progress with the systematic classification and cataloguing of the library, preparatory to moving into the new building, proceeds very slowly.

The position at Stellenbosch may develop more quickly on the return of Mr. Malan, but until that occurs things may be said to be at a standstill. The work of book-issue goes on; readers use the library as best they can and hopefully await developments which will provide library facilities equal to those supplied in modernized university libraries.

The staffs of the university colleges—so far as seen—are in a similar plight. Librarians work either unaided or with untrained assistants, and they are quite unable to do more than dispatch the daily routine duties of their office. Exploitation of the library resources in the interest of students and readers, better classification and cataloguing, the preparation of bibliographical aids, and the many guides to special subjects, such as modern progress suggests as necessary, are quite beyond their means.

It has often been said that a well-classified and well-catalogued library of 5,000 carefully selected volumes is more useful than a collection of ten times that number neglected in these respects. As they now are, the university libraries of South Africa, in the main, must be regarded as awaiting that treatment which would place them in the former category.

Buildings in some cases are urgently required; organization and development of book service and, after that, book supply are needed generally; but to make what the libraries now possess, and what they may soon acquire, as fully useful as they might become, it is essential that larger and well-trained staffs be provided.

From the statements made by those responsible for Cape Town University Library there is willingness to expend considerable sums in meeting the needs of that library. This spirit certainly deserves encouragement, and if only one of the universities succeeds in establishing a model library service, the example will soon have a stimulating effect upon others. It was clear, however, that the Council of the University of the Witwatersrand was ready to make similar provision, and in the first instance, excellent standards might be furnished at these two institutions which would have important influence on university, college and specialist libraries elsewhere.

The problem of the University of South Africa is one which calls for special attention. Of the six colleges forming the University, it has been suggested that the most important is Transvaal University College, Pretoria. What appears to be highly desirable is that a suitable library scheme should be devised—first, to meet the ordinary needs of the individual colleges, and afterwards to form part of the plan of co-operation and exchange or inter-loan of books with other university libraries.

Each college now acquires books without reference to the additions made to sister college libraries. Here, as in other library spheres, there is uneconomical expenditure, loss of range, and waste of shelving accommodation owing to lack of co-ordination. The combined libraries of the colleges should be regarded as the Library of the University. At each college should be placed, as far as possible, the books necessary for regular use there. All books of a valuable nature and those infrequently used might be housed at a recognized centre and be drawn upon as desired by any college. By furnishing to each library a copy of the catalogue of these books and of additions not common to all, this pooled collection would render much greater service than the books do as now distributed.

Presumably, the best position for the pooled collection would be the college attended by the largest number of students, namely, Pretoria. Restriction of space there, however, suggests either the provision of more accommodation at Transvaal University College or the choice of another centre, and, utility being a paramount consideration, the adoption of the former course is to be preferred.

Under such a scheme the Library of the University of South Africa might be so developed as to enable it to take an important place in a system of university libraries of the Union, and, ultimately, in a national library service.

Should the Corporation be disposed to assist the university libraries, it is felt that probably greatest value would accrue from a policy which would secure the close co-operation and co-ordination suggested.

The University of South Africa, dealing with its constituent colleges, might—

(1) Establish its own system to centralize infrequently wanted books, or information about them, to make them more useful within the University as a whole.

(2) Provide accommodation for the housing of additional books purchased out of any grants made to fill gaps or otherwise strengthen college collections.

The formulation of a scheme for the inter-loan of books between university libraries, and between these and the State, specialist, or certain other libraries, should be preliminary to the promise of conditional grants; and if payments of grant are made periodically subject to the satisfactory development of the scheme—which may be parallel with the growth of a national library system—it may be possible to bring about such further co-ordination as circumstances make desirable.

As to grants, I am of the opinion that only by obtaining co-ordination between the universities will it be possible to assess exact requirements. Cape Town University has definite needs and offers to provide for the Library by an expenditure of pound per pound of grant. Other universities may follow that example; but unless the university authorities agree to extend their libraries in accordance with a definite plan which would prevent unnecessary duplication, there will be waste. They should, therefore, be invited to take concerted action in this matter.

Without waiting for a statement which would show the actual net requirements of the university libraries, the condition of stocks indicated that certain expenditure would be necessary—with or without co-ordination.

If grants were made on pound per pound basis of this expenditure, the actual amount would be doubled, and the authorities concerned might be expected to try to obtain contributions to yield their proportion of what would be necessary during a period of, say, three or more years.

Technical Institutes

From the "Report of the University Commission" and from personal investigation it is evident that agreement between universities and technical institutes

respecting spheres has not been reached, and owing to lack of definition, there is uncertainty as to where one ends and the other begins. This uncertainty affects book provision, which may be unnecessarily duplicated in some subjects.

Though the actual number of books at the Cape Technical College is much smaller than at Durban Institute, the library there has been formed more systematically and with clearer view as to the needs of students.

More accommodation, books and periodicals are obviously desirable, and additional staff is necessary, but while it is important that a suitable collection of reference books should be available to students, it is doubtful whether many of the text-books and manuals for class work should be provided except, perhaps, by the Education Department.

Considerable assistance might be obtained through the establishment of better working arrangements with public and other libraries. In support of this view it may be well to cite conditions at one of the towns visited, where the public library possesses some 50,000 volumes and the issues during 1928 numbered 257,053. Of these issues, fiction accounted for 192,900, or more than 75% of the total, while books of science, useful and fine arts combined accounted for only 5,740, or little more than 2%. Yet this record compares very favorably with those of many other towns of South Africa.

Further assistance might be derived by students and staffs at technical institutes if they are enabled to take advantage of any condition under which the Corporation may be disposed to increase the supply of books to university and other libraries.

Specialist and Other Libraries

In view of the purpose and special character of the Library of Parliament at Cape Town, its facilities have been enjoyed by a very limited number of readers. Last year about 10,000 volumes were borrowed or consulted.

Now that its range and resources have been greatly extended—even to the inclusion of much general literature and of many scarce and valuable works of national interest—it may be hoped that a corresponding change will be made in its rules to bring the library's facilities into conformity with its obligations. However important its limited service may have been, under a more liberal policy the library could have met many additional needs which the State or other large libraries have failed to supply. It might therefore be suggested that it should be associated with any national or university system of library co-operation that may be established to give readers in South Africa the use of books which would otherwise have to be sought overseas. The remoteness of South Africa from other centres makes co-operation of this nature doubly desirable here.

Admission of the public to the libraries of government departments is not usually given freely, but the success which has attended the action of the Library

of the Department of Agriculture fully justifies the course it has adopted. And it has been particularly valuable in South Africa, where agricultural development is essential to national prosperity.

Some endeavor has been made to extend the service of this library. That it is capable of bringing to farmers information of much practical assistance has been amply demonstrated, but the difficulty of making this agency sufficiently known to those in the back veldt is a very real one. Linked up with a national library system with far-flung distributing points, the service of the agricultural library would quickly reach those who neither know of its existence nor benefit from its activities.

While the same practices could not be adopted in regard to some departmental collections, there are others which would meet a national need if organized to give reading facilities to those of the public who would profit by such help. This applies particularly to departments closely associated with industrial development, such as mining and fisheries. Exceptions would include, for instance, the collections of archives, which are well maintained and liberally administered at Pretoria and Cape Town respectively. The staff in charge of each of these readily supplies information on request.

Demonstration School Libraries—Natal and Orange Free State

It has been recommended that grants be made for the provision of demonstration school libraries in Natal and the Orange Free State. This presupposes the willingness of the respective education departments of the two provinces to assist in the establishment of such examples.

The importance of having model services of this kind will be evident. Nothing has been attempted in this direction hitherto, and until the value of such libraries has been demonstrated, it is improbable that the departments most concerned will realize how helpful they can be. An important point to be kept in view is the location of the libraries; in my opinion they should be placed at centres like Pietermaritzburg, or Durban, Natal, and at Bloemfontein for the Orange Free State, where they would be conveniently accessible to teachers and others interested in their service.

Libraries for the Blind

The existing arrangements for the supply of books to the blind might be much improved. The services at Grahamstown, Durban and Johannesburg have grown up independently and there is overlapping. Two of these centres offer very limited selections of books, and neither has attempted to train readers in the transcription of printed matter into embossed types. Training of this kind, however, is of a specialized character and need not be attempted at more than one centre in South Africa. The third service, the South African Library for the Blind,

Grahamstown, possesses a special building containing by far the largest collection of embossed books; it has had considerable experience in teaching blind persons to read Braille and Moon types; and, many helpers having been taught there to transcribe print into embossed types, it is believed that advantage would result from the concentration of facilities in that library.

By unification of activities most of the faults of the present services would be eliminated. Against this proposal it might be urged that the removal of provision from Durban and Johannesburg would be detrimental to the interests of blind readers locally, but that is more apparent than real, for, taking Johannesburg alone, we find that thirty persons there now borrow books from the South African Library for the Blind. Besides, it should be remembered that embossed books are mailed at the special rate of one penny per volume, so that under the proposed concentration of provision, readers would draw upon much larger supplies and books would be delivered direct by post.

Should the proposed arrangement be adopted, it is hoped that the authorities at Durban and Johannesburg will divert the amounts now devoted to local provision to the South African Library for the Blind. The receipt of such additional support would enable the institution at Grahamstown to meet the needs of the blind in South Africa in a way that has not hitherto been attempted.

An amount was recommended as a grant to extinguish debt on the buildings of the South African Library for the Blind. This was a very obvious and urgent need. But if the Corporation is disposed to make any additional allowance to this institution in recognition of the excellent work it is doing, an important service would be rendered by increasing the apparatus for the transcription of books. The extra provision would quickly result in a largely increased output of books in embossed types.

Railway Institute Libraries

See Part I, page 17

Libraries for Non-Europeans

Indians: According to the official census of 1921 there were 165,731 Asiatics, mostly Indians, in the Union of South Africa, distributed as follows:

Natal		141,649
Transvaal	15,991	
Cape	7,696	
Orange Free State	395	
		24,082
Total		165,731

The Indian population of Natal has recently been returned at a higher figure, but whether the return is correct or not, it may be accepted that in this province

there are about six Indians for every one in the other three provinces taken together. This fact probably influenced the late Parsee Bai Jerbai Rustomjee in selecting Durban as the most suitable centre for the M. K. Gandhi Library and in confining the activities of his trust to Natal.

As has been stated elsewhere, the function of the Gandhi Library is to supply books for reference or consultation. This naturally restricts its service to those who can visit the institution. The great majority of Indians, even in Natal, are therefore unable to take advantage of the library's facilities.

A visit to the library revealed a good attendance of readers who evidently appreciated the provision there, and in a talk with the Library Committee it became clear that little by way of additional service could be undertaken by the Rustomjee Trust as a charge on the finances of that body. The need for a circulating library is recognized, but obligations towards schools and other educational work now absorb practically all available funds of that trust.

The Rustomjee Trust, which includes Europeans in its membership, has administered the Gandhi Library with success, and in doing so has acquired experience which would prove useful in providing additional library facilities. It would therefore be a helpful agency with which to co-operate in establishing a circulating library.

In commencing a circulating library the Corporation would probably consider it advisable to confine service at first to Indians in and adjacent to Durban, then to others in Natal, and afterwards, if possible, to those in other provinces. A grant was considered in relation to the first stage, and under such an offer it might be possible to ascertain what local assistance would be forthcoming to establish and maintain a service which could be developed gradually to meet the needs indicated.

As a further suggestion it might be expected that the Rustomjee Trust and the municipality would assist in a scheme for Durban alone; that the Trust and the Education Department of the Province would contribute to the provision necessary for Natal; and that for service outside of Natal either the provinces concerned or the Union Government might be expected to make allowance proportionate to numbers to be served.

Alternatively, the circulating library service for Indians might be centered at Pietermaritzburg under the education department, where there is a library for native teachers. Under the head "Libraries for Non-Europeans: Natives" a series of proposals (Part II, pp. 29–30) for extension of this service is given. The Corporation may even consider it the wiser course to endeavor to concentrate both services here. By doing so the supply to Indians would be under official surveillance, and, worked in conjunction with the similar service for natives, many economies might be effected and other advantages gained.

NATIVES: The problem of book supply to the natives is one of the most difficult of all. Standards of mental capacity and development vary with every tribe, and no attempt has been made to provide satisfactorily for any.

Natal appears to be the only province which has endeavored to establish a library service—and it is for teachers only. Present provision does not meet even that need, as the Chief Inspector for native schools pointed out. The library is a "side-line" of the native branch of the education department, and its care is one of the duties of a clerk without any training in library work. The catalogue of books is a bald record of additions; it gives no indication of the scope or character of the books. No effort has been made to popularize the library.

Here is an organization which, if strengthened and developed under the sympathetic supervision of the present administration, would not only quickly develop an adequate service for teachers, but would also provide books for the native community served by the department.

After discussion with the Chief Inspector he submitted the following statement:

> "In order that the library may fulfil its function it is clear that (i) A full-time librarian, who would be able to answer questions by teachers on points of difficulty, as well as devoting his time to bringing the library up to a proper state of efficiency, should be appointed. (ii) The size of the library should be increased immediately by at least 1,000 volumes. (iii) A full catalogue should be printed. (iv) A better room with more shelving, and a complete card index equipment should be provided.
>
> "It is suggested that in conjunction with this central library a scheme for circulating libraries should be organized by the librarian referred to, on the following lines:
>
> "(1) Two boxes, each containing about 50 books, should be placed at possibly 50 centres.
>
> "(2) The books would be selected for their interest to the native community as well as the teacher, and would consist as much as possible of native literature, books on race relations, civics, history, biography, and the standard English authors.
>
> "(3) The boxes would be in charge of the head teacher of the local school, who would be responsible for the care of the books, and for keeping a record of their use by the native community.
>
> "(4) They would remain at one place for three months, and would then be moved to another centre, according to a plan to be drawn up. Responsibility for the transport of the boxes would be laid upon the teacher who had had them at his school.
>
> "If the scheme were to prove a success in Natal, it might easily be extended to the other provinces of the Union, but the nucleus of the library being there,

and the scheme having partially succeeded already, Natal is suggested as the centre in which experiment might most fruitfully be made.

"The expenditure involved is put down as follows:

Librarian's salary	£300
Extra 1,000 volumes at an average of 7/6	375
Printing a full catalogue	150
Rent of room and equipment of same	100
100 boxes at 14/– each	70
5,000 books at 2/6d. each	625
50 record books	15
Total	£1,635

"Of the foregoing amount, only the salary of the librarian and the hire of the room would be recurrent."

Any scheme drawn up, as suggested in paragraph 4 above, would require careful consideration. It is not desirable to keep boxes of books continuously in service by travelling from centre to centre. Constant "wear-and-tear" leads to rapid deterioration of the books, and until a high standard of condition and treatment is reached, it is often better to return boxes to headquarters where necessary repairs can be effected before the collections are again put into circulation.

Subject to such minor modifications, the scheme is good and of the kind which would be capable of expansion as desired.

When fully in operation, the scheme might become the model for similar activities in other provinces within the Union.

In the statement of proposed expenditure, above, some of the items call for remark. The salary of a librarian seems rather low and might have to be increased by £50; the printing of a suitable catalogue would probably cost £25 to £50 more than the figure shown; and an annual allowance of not less than £250 would be necessary after the first year to repair, replace, or bind books and to cover cost of additions.

Until some such schemes are adopted for other provinces the grants recommended for libraries for non-European school children in the Cape (primarily colored), in Natal (Indians and natives); Johannesburg (natives); and Bloemfontein (natives), are intended to meet the needs of those who, having received a measure of education, are totally unprovided with book supply.

With regard to natives in Johannesburg, after careful investigation of the possibilities of service through all agencies, it was clear that the most promising was the Bantu Men's Social Centre. This Centre is doing excellent work with natives, and it attracts many of the most active and enlightened of them. A small library has been formed for the use of members, but it is quite inadequate for their needs. As this centre is thoroughly representative, is active in all educational work for natives, and has been strongly recommended by the most responsible workers on

behalf of the natives as the most suitable agency for book supply, we have no hesitation in suggesting that it should be entrusted, under fitting conditions, with the service.

Though we did not meet the representatives of the Y. M. C. A., Bloemfontein, we were assured that this is the best agency for similar service to natives of the Orange Free State.

Both the Bantu Men's Social Centre, Johannesburg, and the Y. M. C. A., Bloemfontein, should be asked to submit schemes indicating how they would propose to distribute books to the various service points included in their respective areas. The proposed scheme for Natal (pp. 29–30) may contain suggestions useful for this purpose.

Lovedale and Fort Hare

A week-end at Lovedale and Fort Hare afforded opportunity of obtaining an insight into the training given to students at both institutions.

While the inculcation of high moral standards is the keynote of all effort at both centres, courses at Lovedale prepare students for entrance to Fort Hare. Those who do not desire the more advanced academic training provided there enter the industrial departments of Lovedale. These departments include printing, bookbinding and book-selling. Most of my time was devoted to these and to examination of the libraries attached to the institutions.

In the printing and bookbinding departments, in which 25 natives are employed, satisfactory work is produced, under the direction of a technically qualified European. The productions include books in English, in Afrikaans, and in the native languages. With enlarged premises and additional plant, much more work could be undertaken.

In making our recommendation of a conditional grant to Lovedale it was felt that such assistance would lead to much needed development.

In connection with the question of establishing a native press it may be convenient to review suitability of centres for the purpose. Salisbury, Morgenster and Lovedale have accordingly been considered. No practical steps have been taken yet at Salisbury to establish a press.

At Morgenster four natives operate a small plant, in quarters that leave much to be desired. The principal attraction there is the presence of Dr. and Mrs. Louw, to whose scholarship and industry are due translations of the Bible into the vernacular, and the printing of a large number of books in use by the natives. At a recent conference of representatives of all churches a resolution was unanimously adopted requesting that all books for the various churches in Rhodesia be printed at Morgenster, though these were not to include any works directed by any writer against any of the churches co-operating. For this undertaking it would be necessary to

increase the plant and enlarge the existing workshop at considerable cost, and a directing printer would be required.

The geographical position of Morgenster, however, has such serious disadvantages as to suggest preference for another place.

With better geographical position, larger premises, a larger and more modern plant, and a highly qualified staff, Lovedale is obviously preferred as the possible centre for a native press.

In making our recommendation regarding Lovedale all these advantages were before us. Further, it was felt that if it is the desire of the Corporation to encourage the establishment of such a press, additional sums might usefully be applied here. But in that case it would be advisable to obtain a scheme showing plans for development which have been worked out with care by Dr. Henderson, the principal of the institution.

Fort Hare supplements the educational work of Lovedale by training in advanced courses those who wish to become teachers or who desire to take up professional vocations demanding a higher standard of educational equipment. About 100 students are in attendance, and at the fourth graduation ceremony, held in May of last year, the Bachelor of Arts degree of the University of South Africa was conferred on three natives, one of whom was the first native woman to receive this distinction.

The libraries of Lovedale and Fort Hare are meagrely equipped. The provision at Lovedale is described as "not sufficiently up-to-date for most members of the staff, who get the bulk of their reading from other sources."

The library at Fort Hare comprises in all about 1,000 volumes, but many of these are not very suitable for the needs of the students. Here, rather than at Lovedale, should the collection be strengthened, as those who are engaged in studies in the college rely more upon the assistance to be derived from books, and being far removed from any large library, their need is a very real one.

My personal view is that until other service is established to give a more varied and suitable selection of books, a small grant for each of five years would add greatly to the resources of the library and confer a boon on both students and staff.

General Botha Training Ship

Essentials for the maintenance of the training ship are provided out of grant, but other expenses are met out of the fees paid by pupils undergoing training.

A library of about 400 volumes, mainly fiction, has been formed principally of donations. Few of the books are in good condition, but in their somewhat worn or dog-eared state about 100 volumes are issued each month.

Graduates from the ship pass into the navy, the mercantile service, and to coastal vessels of various kinds, and as they become widely scattered, they could not be provided for in groups from the ship.

Officials did not encourage the view that a library would be useful to persons other than those on the ship, and as a unit probably the General Botha would form a suitable delivery station in a library scheme serving the area in which Simonstown is included. Otherwise the ship might be served with a crew's library from a depot at Cape Town. A national library system might be expected to care for the needs of those on the ship either through its rural service or by provision for ships' crews.

NOTE: Grants totalling $63,500 were voted by Carnegie Corporation, December 12, 1928, to: South African Library for the Blind ($6,000); University of the Witwatersrand, Medical Library ($25,000); School Library Demonstrations in Free State and Natal ($2,500 each); Circulating Library for Colored Schools, Capetown ($5,000); Circulating Libraries for Native Adults, Johannesburg ($5,000); Circulating Library for Native Adults, Bloemfontein ($2,500); Lovedale Native Press ($10,000); Native Teachers' Library, Rhodesia ($2,500); School Libraries for Indians, Durban ($2,500).

PART III

Library Provision in Rhodesia and Kenya

Rhodesia

The library position in Rhodesia is somewhat similar to that in the less developed parts of the Union of South Africa. The white population numbers approximately 45,000, while there are nearly 1,000,000 natives and 4,000 to 5,000 colored people within a territory including 149,000 square miles.

Public libraries originated and are maintained as subscription institutions, but grants-in-aid are received from the Government and from the municipalities in which they are situated. Conditions governing use of the libraries are similar to those obtaining in the Union.

The largest and best of the libraries viewed is that at Bulawayo; others, in the order of size, are those at Salisbury, Gwelo, Umtali, Gatooma, and Enkeldoorn.

After meetings with the Library Committee at Bulawayo, we were accompanied by the librarian, Mr. D. Niven, to Salisbury, where arrangements had been made for a conference. The conference was attended by the Premier (The Hon. H. U. Moffat), the Colonial Secretary (The Hon. W. M. Leggate), representatives of various Government departments, and of educational and scientific institutions and libraries.

The library needs of Rhodesia were fully discussed, and at the close of the meeting Mr. Niven was instructed to prepare and submit a scheme, on lines suggested, to a small but fully representative committee then appointed.

At a subsequent meeting this committee approved a scheme, copy of which is now available; and as its provisions resemble closely those proposed for areas within the Union of South Africa, it is not considered necessary to review it in detail.

The question of a principal library having given rise to a discussion on the relative claims of Bulawayo and Salisbury, we expressed the view that while both should be regional centres for the libraries within their respective areas, the headquarters library for Rhodesia should be at Salisbury. Already some special collections have been transferred to the Capital, and as there would be much advantage in maintaining contact with the various Government departments, the importance of Salisbury in this respect will become increasingly recognized.

At present there is practically no public library service for adults except that provided by the libraries named above in these notes, and the total cost of the existing service is estimated at £4,000 per annum. Indebtedness is also said to be £4,000, and a fully developed working scheme to meet the needs of the white population of the country has been estimated to cost £7,000 to £8,000 annually.

There is no doubt that the sums owing, namely, £4,000, which form a first charge on revenue, are a serious burden and a definite barrier to extension of

library services. The extinction of this debt would afford great relief and add much to the vitality of the libraries.

The following suggestions are therefore respectfully submitted for consideration by the Corporation:

A. Existing Libraries

That, on certain conditions, the Corporation consider the advisability of a series of grants diminishing in size over a period of five years, with the understanding that as these grants decrease, local support will increase.

B. A State Library System

Further, it is suggested that towards the institution of a state library service the Corporation might be disposed to provide a capital sum of £1,500 for books, etc., and an annual amount of £1,000 for maintenance during a period of five years. At the end of the quinquennial period the whole situation should be further reviewed.

The report attached hereto is the outcome of

(1) A Memorandum on the Library Situation. . . prepared by D. Niven, in July, 1928;
(2) Meetings at Bulawayo on September 13 and 14, 1928, and at Salisbury on September 20, 1928, attended by the Carnegie Corporation representatives; and
(3) Meeting of the Special Committee at Salisbury on October 22, 1928.

The grant of £500 already recommended for a Native Teachers' Library in Rhodesia is a modest sum when considered in relation to the reading requirements of the large number of teachers now without library provision. It is hoped that Domboshawa will benefit under this grant, and as a model training centre its library should be so equipped as to attract attention and beget emulation.

A report on results of this development and the use made of the library would form a useful guide should the Corporation desire to extend service of this nature. In any case the value of the library as an auxiliary provision will quickly become evident to those responsible in the native branch of the education department, and as a result it is believed that in developing the school service for natives, the importance of book supply will receive due attention.

Nothing so far has been said about conditions in Northern Rhodesia.

We visited Livingstone and met there Mr. Northcote of the Secretariat and the Library Committee. A small subscription library has been established and maintained in like manner to the libraries of Southern Rhodesia.

The site for the library was given by the Government, and the cost of the building, £900, was met from a loan advanced without interest by the Rhodes

Trust. On completion of payments the trust returned £50 as a contribution to the library. No government or municipal grant has been received.

As an earnest of the good-will of the Corporation it may be desired to make a small grant to Livingstone, and in that case I would suggest that £50 per annum be granted over a period of five years, such sum to be devoted to the purchase of books other than fiction. Though the library has fair provision otherwise, there are few books of science, useful and fine arts, and there is practically no supply of literature for boys and girls.

The country is as yet without any considerable white population, and my opinion is that until the scheme considered suitable for the sister colony has been tested, it would be wiser to defer further experiment here.

Copy of Final Report on Rhodesian Libraries Submitted by Mr. D. Niven at Bloemfontein, November 13, 1928, After Meetings with the Representatives of the Carnegie Corporation at Bulawayo and Salisbury.

Bulawayo Public Library, S. Rhodesia.

S. Rhodesia: Libraries

Organization of a National Lending System, etc.

The scheme I would suggest to meet the needs of S. Rhodesia would be the gradual development of a National Library Service comprising:

(a) A central library, acting as a national lending library for adults, a circulating library for schools and a central reference library.
(b) The public libraries of the Colony co-operating with the central library in the supply of books of an educational type to the public in any part of the Colony where such service may be desired.
(c) All schools throughout the Colony acting as mediums for making the service known and co-operating with the centre as distributing stations.
(d) Special libraries, such as the Library of the Rhodesia Teachers' Association, the Rhodesia Scientific Association and other bodies willing to pool their collections and co-operate in the work of the central library.
(e) The library requirements of the Native Education Department.

The central library would be a bureau of library information and would be in a position to give to other libraries and the Government advice on library administration, book-selection and purchase, and other questions affecting the library service of the Colony. The function of the central library would be to supplement the supplies of public and other libraries and to co-ordinate those libraries so as to put the individual student in touch with the particular public or special library which has the books he requires.

As the organization of the service develops it would include as a central reference library the Parliament Library and other Government departmental

libraries and special libraries or those sections of them which could with advantage be centralized for the benefit of all. At the outset some difficulty might be experienced in finding accommodation to centralize even sections only of those libraries, but this should be the ultimate aim.

While the work of organization is being carried out, much useful work could be done by the officials of the central library reviewing existing collections (the departments continuing to house their collections as at present), organizing a uniform system of classification, compiling a union catalogue and giving professional assistance, if required, in building up the Parliament and departmental libraries.

When completed, the classification and union catalogue would show where unnecessary duplication (if any) had occurred, and would be invaluable in showing up weaknesses in particular sections of the collections (this applies also to the collections in the public libraries and would prevent unnecessary duplication in building up the central library collection). It would also enable the central library to give information concerning the location of books, i. e., if a department required a certain book not in its own collection, the central library could supply the information as to whether the book was obtainable in other departmental libraries or from public libraries or other co-operating sources.

The first step in organization would be to utilize the resources of literature of the type required for national lending, contained in the public libraries at Bulawayo and Salisbury, and make those libraries the principal centre for distribution of both the national lending and country school circulating collections, the central library being the guiding factor of the system.

The possibility of the libraries of the smaller towns being able to supply a demand which could not be met by the libraries of the larger towns should not be overlooked, and their co-operation in this way as well as in distribution would be valuable.

It is not intended that the central library service should supply the cheaper kind of ephemeral literature for adult reading or that it should encroach on this field of supply filled by existing public libraries. The extra facilities provided by the scheme must be regarded as an adult education movement, and, in general terms, the central library would be expected, in the first instance, to supply only standard modern works on serious subjects of study, on terms which, while safeguarding the collection, would give the utmost possible freedom to borrowers.

The question of widening the type of literature to be supplied raises the further question of the position with which existing libraries would be faced unless the Colony is prepared to adopt a national scheme providing what is known as a free library service.

Under complete nationalization the first step would be to make arrangements for the transfer of existing libraries to the national service, and the organization of a uniform system of supply by the staff of the central library.

From the data I have at hand I estimate that the total expenditure of public

libraries in the Colony under the present system is in round figures about £4,000. Under nationalization it would be necessary to increase this figure to meet additional service to cope with the greater demand.

The public libraries are struggling along under an incubus of debt amounting to about £4,000. Under a partly or wholly nationalized scheme they will be called upon to give greater service; they must also develop and give greater efficiency of service and it would help considerably if some means could be found to relieve them of this burden of debt.

Finance will be the dominating factor in developing the scheme and the planning of further details of organization will depend on the amount available for either partly or wholly modernizing the library service of the Colony.

The memorandum, dated April 24, 1928, and signed by members of the Kenya Libraries Scheme Committee, supplied information of much service in considering the library needs of the country. Moreover, the scheme formulated by the Committee and approved by representatives of the Government, the press, the church and all sections of the community, has been planned to meet those needs on lines which should give good results.

The principal defects of the proposals contained in the document, as they occur to me, are that

(1) "The scheme . . . will not be [initiated nor] maintained from Government funds, anyhow, at present.

"It is possible that in time to come the whole system may be taken over by the Government, who will meet the expenditure required through a tax . . . but this can only be expected to come about when the system is established and the people have learnt to appreciate what it means to have books of all kinds at their elbows all the time . . ."

(2) There is no reference to differential treatment of races in the use of library facilities, though this question was encountered at our meetings held in various centres of the Colony.

(3) No mention is made in the scheme of the future of existing libraries, nor is it anywhere indicated that these and other libraries would be maintained as public institutions even for Europeans.

(4) There is no indication of approximate annual cost of maintenance of a system beyond what appears to have been regarded as the experimental period.

During our sojourn in the Colony the impression I received was that by discussing these matters frankly at all our meetings the representatives of each district strongly favored support for the scheme from public funds.

In reviewing the present position it may be noted that the area of Kenya is approximately 208,320 square miles. The total population numbers 2,602,989, of whom 12,529 are Europeans, 2,549,300 are natives, 30,583 are Indians, Goans, etc., and 10,577 are Arabs. (*Cmd. 3234, p. 315.*)

About one-quarter of the total area of the country is described as native or forest reserves, and nearly one-half of the European population is located in five of the chief towns of the Colony, namely, Nairobi (3,565), Mombasa (704), Nakuru (209), Kisumu (125), and Eldoret (456). All these centres are connected by railway, and all but Mombasa are within the area known as the Highlands of Kenya. The figures relating to population of towns are those given in the Memorandum, but in "The South and East African Year Book" we find the European population of Nakuru shown as 1206.

The settlement of Europeans up country is of comparatively recent date, and, as has been indicated, their numbers are relatively small. Faced with the many and urgent problems confronting pioneers, the activities of these settlers have been devoted mainly to questions of government, land development, means of transport and communication, and similar matters of first importance. Many have enjoyed all the advantages of superior education and training before settling in Kenya, and might therefore be expected to appreciate the importance of a liberal supply of books. Circumstances, however, have hitherto prevented establishment of an adequate library service, and the existing libraries are the outcome of local effort to meet very real needs.

Viewed from our standpoint this has one advantage—the position is not complicated by development without plan. Kenya is virtually a fallow field so far as libraries are concerned.

Nairobi, the capital, administrative centre and headquarters of Government and railway departments, is also the focal point of library interest. This position has been strengthened by the activities of the Kenya Libraries Scheme Committee, and by the action of Lady McMillan, whose library to the memory of her husband, Sir Northup McMillan, is now in course of erection there. The interest of the Government in library provision is indicated in part by the grant of an excellent site in Nairobi for Lady McMillan's library.

Three meetings in the town were convened by the Libraries Scheme Committee during our stay in Kenya. These were held on December 12, 21, and 28. At the first an itinerary for us was planned, and as then arranged, we met district library committees and/or other representatives, between the above mentioned dates, at Thika, Nakuru, Nyeri, Kikuyu and Kyambu.

We were cordially welcomed at these outlying centres, where we met as many as possible of those persons interested in the library movement. Opinion at the meetings everywhere was unanimously in favor of establishing or developing public library service. Even the prospect of the imposition of a reasonable tax to maintain the supply of books did not moderate support for such service, and it was generally agreed to communicate the views of the meetings to the committee in Nairobi.

Two examples of typical existing libraries encourage one to believe that the time has arrived for experiment with a suitable scheme. At Nakuru, 122 miles distant from Nairobi, and having a white population of 209 (1,206), there is a library comprising 2,000 fairly well-selected volumes. About £40 per annum is spent on books, and £5 per month is paid in rent for the two small rooms in which the library is housed. There are 90 subscribers, from whom about £130 is received annually. The library is open from 9 a. m. to 1 p. m. daily, and though statistical information regarding its use was not available, many borrowers called to exchange books during our short visit. Mrs. Upton, the librarian, gives voluntary and enthusiastic service. Her view is that more and better books are required to meet demands.

About 100 miles distant from Nairobi, in another direction, is Nyeri, with a

white population of approximately 500. We met there, on Boxing Day, Lady Betty Walker, her husband, and her sister, who were authorized to represent residents of the district in discussing with us the proposed library scheme. A small library has already been established at the Outspan Hotel, a convenient centre for the district, and subscribers of 30/– per annum receive four volumes on loan at a time.

It was stated that this library is much used and appreciated, that the desire for better facilities is very keen, and that residents of the district "would gladly support any movement for the establishment of public library provision." As evidence of their personal interest in the movement, these representatives, who now give voluntary service as librarians, said they would readily extend the present accommodation for the existing library or would build a special room near by to serve as a public library should that be desired.

Between our visits to district centres we returned to Nairobi, where a second meeting had been arranged by the Kenya Libraries Scheme Committee to take place on December 21. This meeting, which was held in the Memorial Hall, was well attended, not only by residents in and near Nairobi, but by representatives from distant areas, by Indians, and by the press.

After outlining the kind of scheme which we considered most suitable for the Colony, several speakers expressed approval of the proposals. One of these, Mr. Biss, Secretary for Education, speaking in support of the scheme, indicated the Government's interest in the subject. He urged the public to press for such provision as had been suggested, and said that if books were provided he thought they could be housed in Government schools which were fairly widely distributed over the country. Further, he believed that staffs at the schools might assist, and asked for the submission of a definite scheme. He felt that "if such a scheme were placed before the Government, it would consider it and do its part provided the public would also do its share. He was not committing Government to any expenditure, but only to sympathy, . . . but he thought Government would do more than expend sympathy."

The meeting closed in a spirit of appreciation and high hope, another being fixed for December 28.

Additional visits to district centres and special institutions, including native schools and the library for Indians, did not lead to change of our views regarding the nature of the service required, and a tentative scheme was formulated for submission at the final meeting of the committee and the public.

At this meeting it was agreed "to accept the suggested scheme and that a committee should be appointed to wait upon Government to ascertain what they were prepared to do towards assisting it." No action is likely to be taken, however, until the Carnegie Corporation moves in the matter.

The principal proposals of the scheme recommend the following:

Service

(1) A competent librarian should be placed in charge of the library scheme.
(2) A central distributing library should be established in Nairobi with supply points in various parts of the Colony.
(3) Lady McMillan having intimated her desire that the building for the McMillan Memorial Library should include provision for the central distributing library, the accommodation and co-operation offered should be gratefully accepted.
(4) Efforts should be made to secure the fullest co-operation not only of existing libraries but also of the education department.
(5) Library service should be free to Europeans.
(6) Separate book supply—but not necessarily separate service—should be made for non-Europeans in due course.

Finance

The estimated initial cost of the scheme during a formative period of three years would be approximately:

	Salaries	Books	Transport, etc.	Total
First year	£1,500	£2,000	£500	£4,000
Second year	1,600	1,500	500	3,600
Third year	1,700	1,500	500	3,700

The annual cost of maintenance at the end of three years is estimated at £3,500, made up as follows:

Salaries	Books	Transport, etc.	Total
£1,700	£1,200	£600	£3,500

It may be well to explain here that Lady McMillan expressed the wish that her Memorial Library should be associated with the scheme, and generously offered to provide accommodation for the circulating collection in the building at Nairobi. The conditions attached to her offer were that the name of the library should not be altered, and that the books provided by her for reference there should not be circulated.

It is not anticipated that during the first three years of development more than eleven district supply centres would be established, and there would be considerable advantage in adding to this number cautiously. The factors influencing selection of centres would probably be geographical situation in relation to population, accessibility, means of communication, existence of libraries, schools, local demand for provision with promise of co-operation, etc. The eleven would include such centres as Mombasa, Naivasha, Nakuru, Kisumu, Nyeri, possibly Thika or Kyambu, Eldoret, and such other places as might be considered best for the Colony.

Under the heading Finance, above, the allowance for salaries includes not only the directing librarian's salary, but a sum for assistance. As the work develops extra clerical help will be necessary at slightly increased total cost. It will be

remembered, however, that clerical work is generally done by Indians whose rate of remuneration is usually much below that of Europeans.

Expenditure on books would probably be at its highest during the first year, and the sum named should provide initial stock of at least 8,000 volumes. If many of these were put into circulation immediately, the whole of the allowance shown for books during the second year would not be used for additional stock; a proportion would be necessary for book-binding, etc. During the third year fewer purchases would be made and there would be heavier outlay on maintenance of stock. But in the three years additions should number approximately 8,000, 4,000, 2,000, and the number of annual additions should not fall much below the last figure. This would provide 14,000 volumes at the end of three years to serve a total European population of 13,000 to 14,000—fairly generous provision if compared with stocks of public libraries in relation to population served by them elsewhere.

Cost of transport, etc., in Kenya is rather high, and possibly it may be considered that the sums shown under this heading should be increased. It has been assumed, however, that if Government assistance is forthcoming, carriage of public library books might be free, or, at least, reduced rates might be granted. Further, members of committee in Nairobi were of opinion that much free transport of books by automobile would be offered by those benefiting under the scheme.

In the Memorandum of April 24, 1928, it was stated on page 5 that "The scheme . . . will not be maintained from Government funds, anyhow, at present."

Personally, I am inclined to the belief that this statement may not convey a correct representation of public opinion in Kenya. I should be sorry to find it did. That, however, is personal, but I was glad to meet with many who desire public library service and would readily pay a fair proportion of its cost. Besides, if the whole cost of the proposed scheme were borne during three experimental years by the Corporation, authorities in the Colony—unaccustomed to bear any part of it—might regard new expenditure of £3,500 per annum more seriously than they would a first charge of £1,000 followed later by increases of £200, £500, and £1,800. Another, and most important point, is that of public interest. If the authorities were to contribute in some degree to the cost of the scheme from the outset, it is natural to suppose that interest in its progress and efficiency would be quickened.

For these and other reasons I would respectfully suggest that, if the Corporation desires to offer financial assistance to Kenya in establishing and promoting library service, a scheme on the lines here indicated might be aided as follows:

A series of grants diminishing in size over a period of five years, with the understanding that as the grants decrease, local support will increase.

After the meeting on December 28, at which Mr. H. S. Scott, the recently appointed Director of Education, was present, the following letters were received. They are included here to indicate the official attitude towards library provision.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Head Office, Nairobi, Kenya.
28/29th December, 1928.
272/43.

—PITT, ESQ.,
City Librarian of Glasgow, Norfolk Hotel, Nairobi.

Dear Mr. Pitt:

I enclose a copy of a letter which I have sent today to the Honorary Secretary of the Libraries Committee.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) H. S. SCOTT
Director of Education

28/29th December 1928.
272/42.

The Hon. Secretary,
Kenya Libraries Committee,
Memorial Hall,
Nairobi.

Sir:

1. I beg to confirm what I stated at the Committee meeting held in the Memorial Hall on the 28th December.
2. I referred to the visit of Messrs. Pitt and Ferguson at the last meeting of the Executive Council and am able to inform you that if the Committee will put forward the proposals of the Carnegie Corporation together with a detailed scheme for the establishment of Libraries in the Colony, the Government will give the scheme their sympathetic consideration.
3. I would add that it is essential that the Committee, in putting forward their scheme, should make it clear to what extent they are asking for Government assistance as distinct from public support.
4. I have sent a copy of this letter to Mr. Pitt.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed) H. S. SCOTT
Director of Education

In the second of the foregoing letters distinction is made between Government assistance and public support. I have expressly refrained from making suggestion on this point, a matter on which I believe that the Corporation might obtain the

view of the Kenya Libraries Scheme Committee during negotiations. The sums involved in paragraph 3 of Mr. Scott's letter, bearing number 272/42, are those which it is proposed should be provided by Kenya.

Non-Europeans

According to the census taken in 1926 there are in Kenya 30,583 Asiatics and 10,577 Arabs. Though most of the Arabs are said to be in the coast belt, many Asiatics have settled up country, and nearly 10,000 are in Nairobi. Here the Indians and Goans have established separate institutions, including small libraries.

We visited the Patel Brotherhood Library, which is maintained by the subscriptions of some 300 members. Those paying 12/– per annum have the use of the library and such means of recreation as have been provided; those who use only the library subscribe 6/– annually. The reading room is free to all. Of the total annual expenditure, £50 is devoted to newspapers and periodicals and £40 is spent on books. About 5,000 volumes are issued yearly.

Other library provision for Asiatics appears to be very limited, consisting of small collections of books at Mombasa and Kisumu and meagre supplies in a few schools. Arabs, apparently, are without library service of any kind. Schools and missions are the only sources of book supply for natives.

While staying at Nairobi we visited the High School for Natives and also the Church of Scotland Mission, both at Kikuyu. About 1,000 native boys and girls receive elementary instruction at the mission school, and those who carry their studies further proceed to the high school, where they are trained as teachers or for clerical work. Though the high school is without a library, there are about 1,000 volumes at the mission. Many of these, however, are not such as would be selected for use by students attending either the mission school or the high school.

After reviewing existing conditions very carefully, and having considered possible developments, I am of opinion that until the scheme suggested for library service for Europeans has been tested in actual operation, it would be advisable to delay further experiment. If, after the formative period of three years referred to above in this memorandum, the Corporation is encouraged by results to institute additional service, the needs of non-Europeans in this young and rapidly developing country might then receive close and sympathetic attention.

S. A. Pitt

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